UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes Secretary-General to strengthen progressively advance team of UNMIH up to 500 personnel; resolution adopted by 13 votes in favour with two abstentions (the Russian Federation and Brazil).

+ Security Council renews mandate of United Nations force in Golan Heights for further six months; calls for continued peace efforts.

+ Security Council recommends Palau be admitted as new member of United Nations; says action marks culmination of decades long effort to bring self-determination to Trust Territories.

+ Secretary-General to meet tomorrow with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and afterwards with Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic in Sarajevo.

+ Special Representative Akashi meets with contact group in Zagreb; group members to meet with Bosnian Government members and UNPROFOR officials in Sarajevo.

+ Secretary-General calls on international community to deliver assistance it pledged to Palestinian people, as Palestinian Rights Committee meets to mark Day of Solidarity; says infusion of economic resources essential for true and lasting peace.

+ General Assembly adopts resolution reaffirming sovereignty of Comoros over Mayotte; urges France to accelerate negotiations with Comoros Government to ensure effective and prompt return of Mayotte.

+ Legal Committee concludes current session; approves further work towards creation of international criminal court, convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and text on non-navigational uses of watercourses.

+ Draft resolution proclaiming 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification approved by Economic and Financial Committee.

+ IAEA technical team in Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea to discuss verification measures it will perform there; confirms nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon and Taochon not in operation.

+ Secretary-General expresses sorrow at death of Archbishop of San Salvador; says church leader played influential role in fighting violence and promoting negotiated solution to conflict in his country.

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The Security Council tonight authorized the Secretary-General to strengthen progressively the advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) up to 500 personnel. Resolution 964 (1994) was adopted by 13 votes in favour with two abstentions (the Russian Federation and Brazil).

The Council took that action, in order to facilitate planning of the Mission, identification of conditions required for the transition from the Multi-national Force (MNF) to the UNMIH and preparation for actual transiton, as well as to make good offices available for the achievement of a safe and stable environment.

The Council welcomed the positive developments in Haiti since the deployment of the MNF in peaceful conditions. It also welcomed the establishment of a joint working group to prepare for the transition by the UNMIH's advance team and the MNF. The Secretary-General was requested to inform the Council at regular intervals on increases in the strength of UNMIH's advance team.

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The Security Council today renewed the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for another six-months until 31 May 1995. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire called for by the May 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces.

By unanimously adopting resolution 962 (1994), the Council also called upon the parties concerned to implement its resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement to the Middle East conflict. It took that action on the basis of the Secretary-General's report which included a recommendation on UNDOF's activities since 26 May, and also asked him to submit, by 31 May 1995, a report on developments, as well as measures taken to implement resolution 338.

In a complementary statement, Council President, Madeleine K. Albright (United States), quoted from the Secretary-General's report, which she said reflected the Council's position. The report states that despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East continued to be potentially dangerous and was likely to remain so, until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem was reached.

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In other action today, the Security Council recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of Palau be admitted to membership in the United Nations. By unanimously adopting resolution (963) 1994, the Council followed a recommendation from the Committee on the Admission of New Members.

In a statement read by its President, Madeleine Albright (United States) the Council underscored the historic importance of the resolution recommending Palau's admission. It said the resolution marks the culmination of an effort sustained over decades to bring self-determination to the Trust Territories in different corners of the world. That successful effort had enabled the peoples of the Trust Territories to take charge of their destiny and assume their place in the community of nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will fly to Sarajevo tomorrow, where he will first meet with officials from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). He will then hold discussions with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Presidency and afterwards at the airport with Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic. Following a press conference at the airport, the Secretary-General is scheduled to return to Paris in the evening.

Today, the Secretary-General arrived in Paris from Morocco, after opening the second meeting in Marrakech of the Advisory Group for the United Nations Fiftieth Anniversary. The meeting reviewed projects and ideas on the anniversary, especially those stressing the role of youth and education, and plans by individual countries. Also attending were Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Public Information (DPI), Samir Sanbar.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi met today in Zagreb with members of the Contact Group -- the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Germany and France, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Group was then scheduled to fly on to Sarajevo to meet with representatives of the Bosnian Government as well as with United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officials. The spokesman said although Sarajevo airport has been closed for more than a week, because of the Bosnian Serbs' failure to provide the necessary security guarantees, execeptions would be made for the Secretary-General and Mr. Akashi's planes tomorrow.

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The General Assembly yesterday adopted a resolution reaffirming the sovereignty of the Comoros over the island of Mayotte by a vote of 87 in favour to 2 against (France, Monaco), with 38 abstentions. It also urged France to accelerate negotiations with the Government of the Comoros to ensure the effective and prompt return of the island of Mayotte to that country.

Introducing the resolution, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Comoros, Said Mohamed Sagaf, said that nothing had changed in the actual situation, despite repeated Assembly requests. The demand for the reintegration of Mayotte into the Comoros, he said was rooted in the common race, culture, geography, history and language of the people of the Comoran Archipelago. The representative of France said his Government had spared no effort in search of a just and equitable solution to the problem, in accordance with its own laws.

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The Third Committee (Legal) concluded its current session today, approving a draft resolution by which an ad hoc committee would review issues arising from the International Law Commission's draft statute for an international criminal court. In the light to the review, consideration would be given next year to the convening of an international conference of plenipotentiaries.

In other action, the Committee approved without a vote, a draft resolution by which a working group would meet from 7 to 25 October 1996 to elaborate a framework convention on the non-navigational uses of international watercourses. The draft convention would be based on the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission and comments received by Member Sates. Also approved, was a draft resolution by which the Assembly would accept the Commission's recommendation that an international conference of plenipotentiaries be convened to consider the articles on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property and to conclude a convention on the subject.

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The Second Committee (Economic and Financial) approved a draft resolution today, by which the General Assembly would proclaim 17 June as World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, to be observed beginning in 1995. The draft was approved without a vote. The Committee also heard the introduction of 11 draft texts, seven by Algeria, on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China. Three of those seven were also sponsored by the Non-Aligned Movement.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called on the international community to deliver the assistance it had already pledged to the Palestinian people. The Secretary-General's message was read to a solemn meeting of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

held at Headquarters, to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In his message, the Secretary-General said although $670 million had been pledged for 1994, to date less than $200 million had actually reached the occupied territories. Experience had shown that in a post conflict situation, the infusion of economic resources was essential if true and lasting peace was to be secured. It would be tragic if the failure of the international community to match its words with deeds were to jeopardize the peace process at a time when a lasting and comprehensive peace was at last within sight in the Middle East, he added.

General Assembly President, Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire) said the United Nations could make an essential and constructive contribution to facilitate the peace process and provide urgently needed economic assistance to the Palestinian people. Noting important developments in the peace process, he warned that the United Nations must be vigilant against any erosion of the agreements reached and be ready to dissipate any hostility and mistrust which continued to alienate the people of the region.

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An International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) technical team is in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to discuss verification measures which the IAEA will have to perform at nuclear facilities there. Some measures have already been implemented and others are in the course of implementation. The IAEA team visited the nuclear facilities in Nyongbyon and Taochon and confirmed that those facilities were not in operation and that construction work had stopped. Further discussions are planned on practical implementation matters which are still outstanding.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has received with sadness the news of the death of Monsignor Arturo Rivera i Damas, Archbishop of San Salvador, a United Nations spokesman said today. Monsignor Rivera was a courageous and wise Church leader who played an influential role in fighting violence in his country and promoting a negotiated solution to the decade-long armed conflict there. The Secretary-General has extended his condolences to the Monsignor's family and the Catholic Church in El Salvador.

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